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FACT SHEET

Fish for Livelihoods

Introduction

Fish provides over 60% of animal-source food for the people of Myanmar. Capture fisheries, both inland and marine, are in decline while aquaculture production is increasing (currently about 1 million metric tons annually and predominantly from freshwater sources). In response to this growing market opportunity, planning for the supply of quality aquaculture inputs, information, microfinance, fish seed, and feed needs to be improved. Aquaculture has great potential to satisfy the increasing demand for fish; however, to develop sustainable and resilient aquaculture systems, there needs to be a secure water supply and land tenure, as well as inputs, information delivery and quality product distribution. Myanmar must develop a sustainable aquaculture industry that minimizes potential environmental impacts and ensures that aquaculture practices are socially acceptable and economically sound. The Fish for Livelihoods project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to increase fish production, labor productivity, food availability and fish consumption, especially for women and young children from vulnerable households. It will provide opportunities for entrepreneurial activities in small-scale aquaculture systems and promote social behavioral change that results in improved nutrition, direct home production and market purchases toward nutritious-conscious household decisions.

Goals

To support inclusive and sustainable small-scale aquaculture growth to increase income and dietary diversity, and to reduce poverty among beneficiary populations, especially women and children, in central and northern Myanmar.

Target group

The project's targets primarily include small-scale aquaculture households (with ponds less than half an acre in size) and associated value chain actors. The targeted number of individuals will be at least 10,000 for the duration of the project. The project will also integrate vulnerable groups including internally displaced people, women of reproductive age, youths and children under 5 years old.

Intervention pathways

The project will ensure that fish production in areas distant from the Ayeyarwady Delta will provide fish closer to fish deficit areas while promoting market systems and value chains to deliver food-safe fish and fish products to local markets. This will be accompanied by nutrition activities alongside water, sanitation and hygiene



Geographical Coverage

- Central Dry Zone: Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing
- North: Shan and Kachin

Expected Impacts by 2024

- Increased small-scale aquaculture production
- Increased access to food-safe fish and fish products in the markets
- Improved nutrition, food safety and WASH practices

Partners

- Department of Fisheries
- Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- BRAC Myanmar
- Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS)
- PACT Myanmar
- Pekon Lake committee
- Inle Lake committee

Timeframe

October 2019 to September 2024

(WASH) protocols. These will integrate gender to ensure a more holistic approach that comprehends various aspects of small-scale aquaculture. The following three dimensions will be approached through intervention pathways:

1. Increase small-scale aquaculture production through strategic activities, including improved land and water use, increased access to high-quality inputs (feed, seed and equipment), capacity development and research into production, and access to credit.
2. Develop and use market-based system approaches to increase access to food-safe fish and fish products.
3. Deliver enhanced nutrition and WASH practices via social behavior change communication activities, and develop capacities for improved production, processing and consumption of food-safe aquaculture and other fish-based products.

Achievements in 2019–2020

- 2585 training sessions on different modules delivered to aquaculture promoters, aquaculture farmers and fishers as well as staff from implementing partners (IPs).
- 1023 aquaculture farmers received fish seeds.
- 1.3 million fish seed distributed to the aquaculture farmers.
- 427 (36%) female aquaculture farmers received assistance.
- 2215 participants (male = 67%, female = 33%), aquaculture farmers, farmer household members, fishers, hatchery farmers, nursery farmers and IP staff were involved and engaged through different interventions.
- 1538 farmers, their family members and community members were reached through nutrition awareness campaign across Myanmar.
- 2647 farmers and community members received information, education and communication (IEC) material with customized messages on COVID-19.
- 1680 farmers and their members of their household were given hygiene and protective materials (face masks, hand gels, gloves, sanitizers and soaps).
- 921 farmers and their family members were provided and given access to WASH facilities.
- 743 (65%) farmers adopted better management practices for improved technology and management for aquaculture.
- 395 farmers and their families were provided with vegetable and fruit seeds to grow on pond dikes.
- 92 fishers from Inle Lake and Pehkon Lake were assisted through project interventions.
- 11 hatcheries were supported and all of them signed a contract as part of enhanced support.
- 8 feed mills were installed and made operational to produce quality fish feed for the farmers.

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Project



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